

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

REF: STATE 36193

1. FOR BUDGETARY REASONS, IMPERATIVE THAT WE KNOW ASAP EXTENT TO WHICH ROMANIANS WILL FILL AVAILABLE SLOTS UNDER ARTICLE I OF PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES FOR 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR. BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING EMERGING FROM RECENTLY-CONCLUDED REVIEW TALKS, ROMANIANS INTEND TO FILL ALL SLOTS PROVIDED ALTHOUGH THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET END OF FEBRUARY DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS. WE FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT ROMANIANS ARE PREPARED TO FILL QUOTAS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (17) AND RESEARCH SCHOLARS (18) BY SUBSTITUTING NUMBER OF SHORT-TERM GRANTS FOR FULL ACADEMIC YEAR GRANTS. WE ARE PREPARED TO PROCEED IN THIS MANNER AND BELIEVE THAT THE "MAKE EVERY EFFORT" LANGUAGE OF ARTICLE I(1) OF PROGRAM OBVIATES NECESSITY OF FORMAL PROGRAM AMENDMENTS.

2. BASED ON BOTH BUDGETARY AND ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS, AND GIVEN ABSENCE OF ANY ROMANIAN NOMINATIONS TO DATE,
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WE ARE EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS OF FULL ACADEMIC

YEAR TO MARCH 31. IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROCESS ANY NOMINATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE EVEN ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS. UNFILLED PORTIONS OF QUOTAS REMAINING AFTER MARCH 31 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SHORT-TERM GRANTEES (UP TO 3 MONTHS) WHICH CAN BE PROGRAMMED WITH AT LEAST TWO MONTHS' NOTICE THROUGHOUT 1976-77 ACADEMIC YEAR. NOMINATIONS WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE: (1) FULL BIOGRAPHIC AND PROFESSIONAL DATA ON CIES FORM, (2) DETAILED RPT DETAILED STATEMENT OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND OBJECTIVES; (3) PERIODS OF AVAILABILITY; AND (4) EMBASSY'S VERIFICATION OF NOMINEES' ENGLISH ABILITY SINCE ESCORT-INTERPRETERS WILL NOT RPT NOT BE PROVIDED FOR THESE VISITS. AFTER PROGRAM AGENCY HAS ASCERTAINED WHETHER OBJECTIVES ARE FEASIBLE, PROGRAM WILL BE ARRANGED AND EMBASSY WILL BE INFORMED OF DESIRED DATE FOR PROGRAM START.

3. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK CONFIRMATION OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANIAN VIEWS STATED IN PARA 1. IF OUR UNDERSTANDING CORRECT, PLEASE PASS INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PARA 2 AND GET ROMANIANS' BEST ESTIMATE, BASED ON ABOVE CRITERIA AND THEIR OWN DESIRE FOR SHORT-TERM GRANTEES, OF NUMBER OF FULL YEAR NOMINATIONS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED BY EXTENDED, BUT FINAL, DEADLINE OF MARCH 31. IF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF ROMANIAN VIEWS REGARDING SUBSTITUTION OF SHORT-TERM GRANTS NOT CORRECT, REQUEST EMBASSY INFORM THEM OF MARCH 31 DEADLINE AND PROPOSE COURSE OF ACTION ALONG LINES PARA 2.

4. IN ORDER TO GET THROUGH THE PRESENT TWO-YEAR PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES, AND GIVEN THE REALITIES OF THE BUDGET AND PROSPECTS THAT THE ROMANIANS (DESPITE STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY) ARE LIKELY TO UNDERNOMINATE, WE WOULD HOPE THAT QUOTAS COULD BE ADJUSTED TO ACHIEVE A RELATIVE BALANCE IN ROMANIAN AND U.S. PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR.

THUS FAR, WE HAVE NOMINATED 13 GRADUATE STUDENTS (ONE OF WHOM IS AN IREX PRINCIPAL NOMINEE AND ANOTHER AN ALTER-NATE IREX NOMINEE); 11 RESEARCH SCHOLARS; AND 9 LECTURERS (5 SR. AND 4 JR.) FOR TOTAL OF 33. CIES HAS SEVERAL OTHER LECTURER NOMINATIONS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED BEFORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCH 31.

EMBASSY SHOULD PROPOSE THAT ROMANIANS ADJUST THEIR PROGRAM TO APPROXIMATE SIMILAR TOTAL. WE SUGGEST ROMANIANS REDUCE THEIR GRADUATE STUDENTS TO THE 4 NOW IN DEGREE PROGRAMS IN THE US, REDUCE LONG-TERM RESEARCH SCHOLARS TO 10, AND RETAIN LECTURESHIPS AT 8. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT 10 ROMANIAN RESEARCH SCHOLAR GRANTS BE

MADE AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR RPT SENIOR SCHOLARS ON SHORT-TERM VISITS UP TO 90 DAYS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. THIS WOULD TOTAL 32 ROMANIAN PARTICIPANTS. WHILE WE DOUBT THAT ROMANIANS WILL BE ABLE TO NOMINATE EVEN THIS NUMBER, THIS WOULD GIVE US A MORE REALISTIC FIGURE ON WHICH TO BUDGET THIS YEAR. THE NOMINATION OF 10 SHORT-TERM SCHOLARS WOULD ALSO PROVIDE ADEQUATE NUMBER ON WHICH TO TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF THIS NEW PROGRAM.

5. FYI. AS SOON AS WE CAN GET A FIX ON NUMBER OF FULL YEAR NOMINATIONS WHICH WILL MEET MARCH 31 DEADLINE, WE WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO ESTABLISH ROMANIAN COUNTRY ALLOCATION FOR FY-1976. END FYI.

6. FOREGOING HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PAO FERNANDEZ WHO REQUESTS APPOINTMENT BE MADE FOR HIM DURING FIRST WEEK IN MARCH WITH DEP MIN ED BOGDAN TO DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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